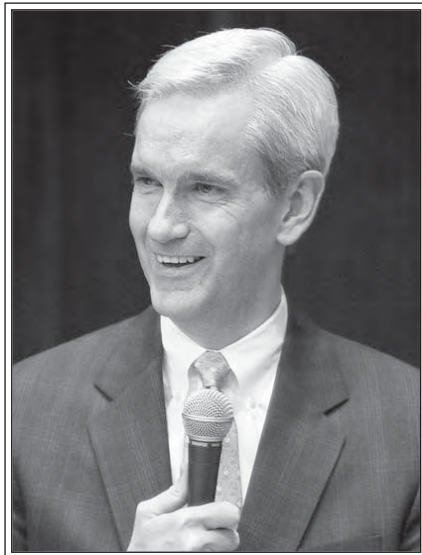




I'm pleased that the General Assembly has taken action that may help your family enjoy some summer savings, including rebates on new air conditioners and the ability to lower your monthly electric bill.

## CHOOSING CHARITIES

When donating to a disaster, beware of scams. There are easy ways to access resources to help you know who's for real.



STATE SENATOR

# ANDREW J. McDONALD

*Representing the people of Stamford & Darien*

Legislative Office Building, Room 2500

Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

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## State Senator Andrew McDonald



### STAY COOL WITHOUT BREAKING THE BANK

Lower your electric bill this summer:

- ✿ As a result of recent legislation, you can switch electric suppliers and save as much as 10 percent. Visit [www.ctenergyinfo.com](http://www.ctenergyinfo.com) or call 1-888-922-3782.
- ✿ Replace an old air conditioner with a new energy-efficient model and get a \$50 rebate. Call 1-877-WISE-USE to have a form mailed to you.
- ✿ Signup for an energy audit and learn the secrets to creating an energy-efficient home. For more information, call the state's Energy Services Hotline at 1-800-842-1132.

### AFFORDABLE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUR FAMILY

Summer vacations, camps and activities can get expensive. Here are some places to find affordable alternatives:

- ✿ Call 2-1-1 United Way for details on summer camps, childcare, and youth programs
- ✿ Contact the Stamford Recreation Department at 203-977-5214 or [www.stamfordrecreation.com](http://www.stamfordrecreation.com).
- ✿ Check out [ctvisit.com](http://ctvisit.com) or call 1-888-CTvisit to get ideas for family activities that are close to home.

## CONCERN ABOUT CHARITIES

I have received many calls recently expressing concern about the number and variety of charitable solicitations received by constituents. Most view charitable giving as a social good, especially in times of crisis such as the earthquakes in Haiti and Chile. At the same time, we want to make sure that we are giving to reputable charities.

Before making any charitable donation, I urge you to visit one of two Web sites:

[www.charitynavigator.org](http://www.charitynavigator.org)

[www.guidestar.org](http://www.guidestar.org)

Both provide a wealth of information on thousands of charitable organizations, and will help you evaluate a particular charity's financial stability, funding, governance and ethical practices, and even the CEO's compensation. You can also call Connecticut's public charities unit in the attorney general's office at 860-808-5020.

